Put On Your Hardhats
Brooklyn Bridge Park Construction Is Under Way

Excavators roared onto Pier 1 early in the morning on Thursday, February 13, 2008, and broke ground on the Piers section of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Over the spring and summer, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), has demolished almost all the remaining pier sheds, the Purchase Building, and a number of upland structures on the Piers section of the future park. With demolition now complete and contracts under way, park construction will begin on Piers 1 and 6 this winter.

CONSTRUCTION, continues on page 6

Summer ’08 @ Pier 1 welcomed 192,675 visitors. See page 3.
A View from the Bridge

The time for Brooklyn Bridge Park is now.

Incredibly, despite the recent economic gyrations, $47 million in park construction has begun in earnest. We should see the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation complete three significant sections of our park by the end of 2009. By 2013, two thirds of Brooklyn Bridge Park should be open to the public.

It is truly amazing and a tribute to a compelling vision for our extraordinary Brooklyn waterfront and the continuing rennaissance of New York City. And a confirmation of our mantra, “if you come, they will build it.”

Over the past 10 years, the Conservancy, in partnership with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, State Parks, and City Parks, has attracted over 500,000 visitors to the beginnings of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Visitors have enjoyed free activities ranging from The Floating Pool at Brooklyn Bridge Park Beach, to movies, music, dance, boating, and fitness classes, creating a vital constituency that has helped propel Brooklyn Bridge Park forward.

Last summer alone, 270,000 people joined us to enjoy our growing waterfront park. We welcomed over 192,000 visitors to “Summer ‘08 @ Pier 1.” The temporary “pop-up” park provided people with a small, but exciting, preview of the future piers section of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The Conservancy is working with the Development Corporation to provide future interim and permanent programming in the piers area. We are also developing a plan so that programming can be integrated into the park construction schedule, working on guidelines for appropriate uses, and exploring how to fund the costs of providing education, recreation, and cultural activities.

We are also stepping up our education programming. With generous federal support from Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, the Conservancy is partnering with CMRC and CUE to provide underserved young people with year-round education programs focusing on marine ecology and the history of the Brooklyn waterfront.

Closer to home, we’re pleased to announce that David Kramer has stepped up to Chair of the Conservancy’s Board of Directors. David succeeds Tensie Whelan, who chaired the Conservancy’s board since 2002. We’re also pleased to welcome Kara Hailey, an Associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP to the board.

Despite these significant steps, great challenges remain for Brooklyn Bridge Park and the Conservancy.

We are facing difficult economic times. While sufficient funds are committed to build two thirds of the park, we will need to be vigilant to ensure that money remains committed. And we will need to be tenacious in advocating for additional government monies and seeking private philanthropy to fund the completion of the park.

More immediately, just as the Purchase Building was demolished this spring to open a major connection between the piers to the DUMBO waterfront, we learned that the New York City Department of Transportation wants to use this site as a staging ground for the rehabilitation of the Brooklyn Bridge for the next four to six years. Joining our elected officials and local community groups, the Conservancy has strongly protested, urging DOT to consider several other alternative sites for its staging needs.

The Conservancy will also be closely monitoring State DOT plans to repair the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway’s “triple cantilever” beneath the Brooklyn Heights Promenade. Although this work is years away, we need to plan now to minimize construction impacts upon Brooklyn Bridge Park.

With that, we recognize that the BQE rehabilitation can bring opportunity, including alterations that could reduce traffic noise in the park and the possibility of opening a pedestrian tunnel from the Clark Street subway station to create direct public transportation access to the park.

So, it truly is the best of times and the worst of times. But Brooklyn Bridge Park is being built, and we should enjoy knowing that our hard work will make a difference in the future of New York City, even as we face some of the most economically challenging times of our lives.

MARIANNA KOVAL, President

The Grass Is Greener on Our Side of the Bridge!

We hope you’ve noticed that the Main Street section of Brooklyn Bridge Park is cleaner and greener these days. That’s thanks to the teamwork of City Parks and a core of dedicated volunteers, along with the Conservancy.

District Manager Lena Neglia stepped up City Parks’ efforts this year, assigning a dedicated worker to the Main Street park for daily cleaning and maintenance. Going forward, City Parks will be working closely with the Conservancy on more effective trash pick-up and an aggressive rodent control program in the heavily-used park.

This summer, DUMBO resident Hal Steele devoted hundreds of hours to repairing and maintaining the park’s sprinkler system, keeping the grass lush and green through even the hottest days of August.

That’s all in addition to the efforts of Green Team volunteers (see page 4!) who weeded, planted, mulched, cleaned, filled the sandbox, improved the dog run, and more, at the Main Street park.

Thank you Team Brooklyn Bridge Park.
SUMMER ’08 @ PIER 1: The “Pop-Up” Park

More than 192,000 visitors from Brooklyn, New York, and around the world got a preview of Brooklyn Bridge Park this summer at a small, temporary park constructed on Pier 1, near Fulton Ferry Landing.

Affectionately known as the “pop-up park,” the 26,000 square foot site was designed by landscape architect Susannah Drake’s dlandstudio and contained a café run by RICE restaurant, along with picnic tables, benches, landscaping with trees, Brooklyn’s largest sandbox, and playful grass mounds. Visitors enjoyed picture-perfect views of the Manhattan skyline, New York Harbor, and views of all four of “The New York City Waterfalls” by Olafur Eliasson, which was presented by the Public Art Fund in collaboration with the City of New York.

The “pop-up” park was funded by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) and constructed in six short weeks by Skanska USA on a shoestring budget of $100,000. The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy managed the temporary park, and concession revenues covered the park’s maintenance and operations.

A summer hotspot for local families and tourists alike, the park was initially slated to close Labor Day weekend, but proved so popular that the BBPDC and the Conservancy decided to extend its operations through Sunday, September 28.

“We were so thrilled with the success of Summer ’08 @ Pier 1,” said Regina Myer, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation. “Pier 1 proved to be a magnificent destination for Brooklynites, New Yorkers and tourists, and allowed people to experience the beauty and incredible views of the New York Harbor.”

A free shuttle bus from the Borough Hall and High Street subway stations transported riders to Pier 1 on the weekends. The shuttle was run by the Downtown Brooklyn Waterfront Local Development Corporation (LDC) and funded by Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, as part of a study the LDC is conducting on transportation access to the park.

Some components from the temporary park are being reused in existing sections of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Sod and perennials have been replanted in the Main Street section of the park. Benches have been moved to the dog run in DUMBO. Other items will be stored over the winter with the hope of use at another interim site next summer.

Given the schedule of site demolition, the space on the end of Pier 1 was able to be used on an interim basis without impeding park construction. The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation will begin actual park construction of Pier 1 this fall.

Visitors to Pier 1 came from over 440 different zip codes

- 21% came from 11201 (the adjoining neighborhoods)
- 23% came from elsewhere in Brooklyn
- 14% came from elsewhere in New York City
- 17% came from the rest of the United States
- 25% came from 52 foreign countries

“We had a spectacular summer at Pier 1,” said Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy President Marianna Koval. “Visitors from across New York City, and around the world, came to this temporary park on the waterfront and got a taste of how magnificent Brooklyn Bridge Park will be.”

SUMMER ’08 @ PIER 1 opened under the partnership of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, along with the State of New York and the City of New York. Shuttle operations were provided by the Downtown Brooklyn Waterfront Local Development Corporation with funding by Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez.
2008: A Record Year!

From Pier 1, to the NYC Waterfalls, to the waters underneath the Manhattan Bridge, there was fun at every turn in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Over 270,000 people visited the beginnings of Brooklyn Bridge Park this year to enjoy free public programs facilitated by the Conservancy.

Working with City and State Parks, and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the Conservancy produced or co-produced over 60 events this season, kicking off with the popular Spring Fling Egg Hunt in March and wrapping up with a fall Harvest Festival. This year we added more education programming to the calendar, with seining workshops for children and Wee Park Citizens for toddlers, in addition to Cove Camp and bird watching workshops with Audubon New York.

We teamed up with local venues to produce a new music series that showcased Brooklyn’s thriving music scene. And we assisted the Mayor’s Office and the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office in celebrating the Brooklyn Bridge’s 125th birthday.

We also welcomed local boating groups who offered kayaking and rowing in the cove between the bridges for the first time.

As always, it was all free!

Individuals, corporations, and community groups put on their work gloves, joining forces with the Conservancy to put in over 3,400 hours caring for Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Thank you to all GREEN TEAM volunteers and supporters.

25,000 film buffs enjoyed a season-long double feature: MOVIES WITH A VIEW along with close-up views of Olafur Eliasson's NYC Waterfalls.

Children and adults alike took to the water at KAYAKING AND BOATING workshops facilitated by the Gowanus Dredgers, Red Hook Boaters, Downtown Boathouse, and the Village Community Boathouse.

We couldn’t have done it without you!

Thank you to our government and programming partners and our key volunteers this past season.


New York, and the world, wished the BROOKLYN BRIDGE a happy 125th BIRTHDAY over Memorial Day weekend.

Did you miss one of our free events?
Sign up for e-news reminders at:

www.brooklynbridgepark.org.
Demolition and construction debris was removed from the site and transported to recycling centers by barge, a process that minimized pollution and truck traffic through the adjoining neighborhoods. Steel columns left standing around the shed perimeters will be reused in the final lighting design for the park.

**Phase 1: 66% of the Park Complete by 2013**

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation held a public meeting on June 30, 2008, to announce the park construction schedule. Phase 1 extends through 2013 and includes the construction of the area underneath the Brooklyn Bridge extending to the current Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park (Brooklyn Bridge Plaza), Piers 1, 5, and a portion of Pier 6, and the uplands including the Pier 4 beach and tidal pool at Pier 2.

In October, the BBPDC awarded the first Phase 1 construction contract to Skanska USA, which oversaw the site demolition. The $47 million contract for the development of Pier 1 and the Old Fulton Street entrance includes 1,300 feet of promenade along the East River, 2.5 acres of lawn with sweeping views of New York Harbor and the Brooklyn Bridge, and the first portion of the Brooklyn Greenway borough-long bike path. Pier 1 includes 700 trees, water gardens, and a playground, plus a number of sustainable initiatives such as underground water storage tanks, and a series of “river steps” overlooking the harbor. These steps will be constructed from salvaged granite from the Roosevelt Island Bridge.

When the Pier 1 area is complete in 2009, 9.5 acres of new park will join the 12 acres already open between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges.

Additional construction contracts will be awarded in the coming weeks for Brooklyn Bridge Plaza, a portion of Pier 6, and the Pier 6 uplands, which are scheduled to open by the winter of 2009. On their completion, 33% of Brooklyn Bridge Park, including 16.7 acres of new parkland, will be open.

An uplands connection, including the main walkway and bikeway, between Piers 1 and 6 will open in 2011, allowing access from one end of the park to the other while the remaining uplands are under construction. Pier 5 is scheduled to open by the end of 2011. The uplands sections of Piers 5 and 3 will open in 2012 and 2013. At this point 66% of Brooklyn Bridge Park will be complete and open to the public.

Piers 2 and 3 are awaiting further funding and are not included in the Phase 1 schedule.

**Park Design**

Phase 1 park design has continued to be refined under the leadership of BBPDC President Regina Myer.

Pier 1’s spectacular Harbor View and Bridge View lawns will be joined by a new, small playground on the pier’s northwest corner. The existing Squibb Park playground, located between the park and the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, will be connected to Brooklyn Bridge Park by a pedestrian bridge.

Pier 6 will feature areas of natural landscaping, a sand volleyball court, a café, and magnificent views of the harbor. A major new playground will be built at the foot of Atlantic Avenue on the uplands. The playground will include a water play area, slides, a swing valley, a tot lot, and a marsh exploratory garden.

Pier 5 remains devoted to fieldsports and recreation and will contain three multipurpose sports fields, each of which is the size of a soccer field.

The uplands will contain walking and biking paths, places to picnic, and access to the water.

A new “picnic peninsula” on the uplands of Pier 5 will create a unique riverfront setting for picnic tables, barbeque facilities, and family recreation.

A beach in the Pier 4 uplands, a tidal pool in the Pier 2 uplands, and a water access ramp by Pier 1 will offer visitors direct access to the water.

Concessions will be located throughout the park. Cafés will be located on Pier 6, the uplands between Piers 4 and 5, and near Fulton Ferry Landing. Additional concession facility opportunities may be located at the Pier 6 entrance and at the Pier 1 entrance.

Phase 1 of Brooklyn Bridge Park will contain:

- 5 miles of promenades and walkways
- 6.8 acres of multipurpose lawns
- 4 acres of meadow
- 1.9 acres of playground
- 685 benches
- 1950 new trees
Phase 1 Completion Timeline: Fall 2009 – Spring 2013

**FALL 2009**
- Bridge View Lawn North
- Brooklyn Bridge Plaza
- Pier 1 Entrance
- Pier 1

**WINTER 2009**
- Pier 6 Playgrounds

**FALL 2010**
- Pier 2 Uplands and Tidal Pool

**SUMMER 2010**
- Pier 2 Uplands

**FALL 2011**
- Pier 5 Recreation Fields
- Pier 5 Picnic Peninsula
- Connective Promenade
- Pier 4 Beach

**FALL 2012**
- Pier 5 Uplands

**SPRING 2013**
- Pier 3 Uplands

Brooklyn Bridge Park
Conservancy invites park enthusiasts
to join us on the list below. Your
support helps underwrite program-
ning from kids' activities to the Film Series, and all the advocacy
work in between.

Support Your Park

The Brooklyn Bridge Park
Conservancy fully acknowledges all our generous supporters. This list includes all gifts received through 10/31/08. While we have made every effort to ensure complete accuracy, mistakes can happen. Please contact us if you find any error.

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